



## **Transportation Finance Issues: Expenditures**

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### **How is transportation money spent?**

#### **Legislature approves a biennial spending plan**

- The Legislature debates and approves a biennial budget for transportation spending. The state transportation budget for 2001-2003 totaled \$4.56 billion. Major categories of spending include:
  - State highway expenditures
  - Local aids and capital assistance
  - State operations, including motor vehicle services and State Patrol

#### **Most highway funds are used on existing roads and bridges**

- The largest part of the state highway budget goes toward rehabilitating existing highways and bridges.
- More than 26% of WisDOT's total budget is used to resurface, recondition and reconstruct the state's aging highway infrastructure. Another 8% of the budget goes toward the maintenance and operation of the current system.
- Major highway construction is just a small part (10.4%) of the total budget.

#### **More than one-third of total budget is returned to local communities**

- General transportation aids (GTA), the largest category of local aid, is used to partially offset the cost of maintaining and improving the road system owned by local governments.
- State transit aids fund 40% of the operating costs of public transit systems. Together, GTA and transit represent 95% of the local assistance budget.

- Local transit capital assistance includes support for rail, harbor and aeronautics programs, as well as funding for bike and pedestrian facilities and multi-modal transportation studies.

## Motor vehicle and State Patrol activities account for a small portion of the budget

- The “other” category of spending in WisDOT’s budget finances all of the department’s non-modal activities. This includes long-range planning, Division of Motor Vehicle services and activities, the Wisconsin State Patrol and the department’s administrative costs.

## Where the Dollars Go 2001-03 Transportation Expenditures by Major Categories Total: \$4.56 Billion

